

AK-040-03-CX-013

Case File No.: AA084539

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM**

CX No.: AK-040-03-CX-013

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-84539

Proposed Action Title/Types:

~~FLPMA 507~~ Right-of-Way, Federal agency radio site

Location of Proposed Action:

Sec. 16, T. 24 S., R. 5 W., Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately .02 acres.

Description of Proposed Action:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposes to place a fiberglass structure containing radio repeater equipment and antennas on BLM land on Blackburn peak near the Innoko Wildlife Refuge. The structure is 6'x 6', 10' in height and is fully self contained including an internal battery power source of sealed non-spillable batteries utilizing solar panel re-charging capability.

The repeater is designed to allow radio communications within the Innoko Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to use of sealed, non-spillable batteries, the structure incorporates a floor plan designed to contain potential spills. Batteries will be transported to the site by helicopter in sealed shipping crates and installed on site. The batteries are always fully contained.

There will be no land disturbance and no need for employees to be on site.

Access is strictly by helicopter for annual maintenance.

The grant requested is for 3 years, renewable at that time. When the project is complete the land will be restored to its original condition.

Completion time frame for this project is between June 1-15, 2003.

Applicant (if any):

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southwest Management Framework Plan, L-1.

Date Plan Approved: November 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks:

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.
This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4., E. 19

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.
The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	___	<u>x</u>
2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	___	<u>x</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects.	___	<u>x</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>x</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>x</u>

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|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 6. | Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | _____ | X |
| 7. | Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | _____ | X |
| 8. | Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. | _____ | X |
| 9. | Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. | _____ | X |
| 10. | Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | _____ | X |

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): /s/ Shirley Rackley

Date: April 14, 2003

PART III - DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ June Bailey

Date: April 16, 2003